

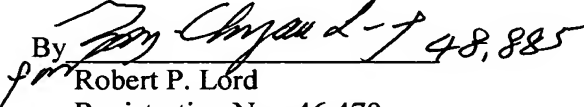
**REMARKS**

Please amend the specification and abstract as specified above. Applicant submits that the above amendments are fully supported by the original specification and that no new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims are not made in view of prior art, but are solely made to correct formalities. Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/043001).

Dated: January 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By  48,885  
Robert P. Lord  
Registration No.: 46,479  
(713) 228-8600  
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant